

## FALL OF TWO HOUSES IN SEVEN DIALS.

—On Sunday night, or Monday morning rather, between two and three o'clock, a frightful fall of two houses occurred in Seven Dials, St. Giles's, when many persons were seriously injured, two or three fatally, it is feared. The houses abutted against each other at the back, and adjoined one of the corner houses, a large gin-palace, called the Crown Tavern, facing the opening at Seven Dials. The ruined houses faced Queen-street and Great St. Andrew's-street respectively. One of them was a cheap lodging-house for poor people, which accounts for the numbers injured. The other was an oil and colour shop. The official surveyors are blamed; but there are various questions involved, and into these we cannot, at present, enter. The recklessness with which individuals will risk their own lives, even while danger is obvious, was coarsely evidenced a few nights ago in the still unsettled and dangerous ruins themselves, where we observed a hair-cutter, professional or otherwise, coolly cutting away at the hair of a customer, who as unconcernedly submitted to the operation, while a bystander held the candle whose glare disclosed the curious scene to all who stood in the street!

**WELSH SLATE TRAFFIC.**—The development of the slate traffic on the Chester and Holyhead line is gradually proceeding, and in a short time there is no doubt that it will form a most important item of revenue. The branch lines of rail from the great slate wharfs at Port Penrhyn and Port Dinorwic have been connected with the tramways at the quarries, and, in a short time, it is hoped, there will be a communication at Carnarvon between the line and the tramways leading to the great slate basin.

**LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**—There are, it is said, at least 10,199 public libraries in the United States, containing 7,753,964 volumes. These are distributed under the following heads:—

		Vols.
State libraries .....	39	containing 298,937
Social libraries .....	126	" 611,334
College libraries .....	126	" 566,912
Students' libraries .....	142	" 254,639
Libraries of academies & professional schools .....	227	" 320,909
Libraries of scientific and historical societies .....	34	" 138,901
Public school libraries .....	9,306	" 1,552,332

Total libraries..... 10,199 Total vols. 7,753,964

The States of New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania, stand pre-eminent for the number of their libraries. New York has upwards of 8,000 school libraries, and more than 300 other public libraries of various denominations. Massachusetts has 700 school and 62 other public libraries. Michigan has 374 of the former, and seven of the latter. While even the state of Iowa can boast of its 2,660, Wisconsin of its 7,163, and Minnesota of its 3,200 volumes of books for public use.

**NEW APPLICATION OF THE LEVER PRINCIPLE.**—A working model of Messrs. Faulkner and Mayne's patent pumping engine, which, by the application of balancing and counterbalancing weights by leverage, is intended to separate steam, is thus described by the *Manchester Courier*:—"At one end of it, on a lever connected by a shaft with a pulley, the inventor places a thirty-pound weight at a distance of six-and-a-half inches from the fulcrum. On the opposite end another lever is connected with a pulley half the diameter of the former one, and on which there is placed, at six-and-a-half inches from the fulcrum, another thirty-pound weight. When these levers are put in motion, the one counterbalances the other, and the power required to move them is very small. Supported on two pillars from the centre of the machine, there is a way beam, about six feet long, which is connected at one end with two pulleys by a chain, and, consequently, when the levers are moved, the way beam is set in motion, and by the application of about the of moving power, a weight of upwards of 100lbs. placed at the other end of the beam, was lifted up and down with ease. One man by this machine can do as much work as a three-horse engine.

**THE HOUSES AT ST. AUGUSTIN'S, RAMSGATE.**—In your leading notice of the late W. A. Pugin you allude to the houses at the east end of his church in this town as completely "swamping that building." It may be well to mention that these houses were neither designed nor built by Mr. Pugin, though they are a sad attempt to copy the style of his work adjoining; and are indeed just sufficiently like to deceive the uninitiated. Pugin, of course, would not have committed the absurdity of marvelling his own favourite work by perpetrating the houses with the overwhelming roof, &c. &c. which you so justly reprobate.—N.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**—At the monthly meeting of the council of this society, held on Tuesday in last week, it was resolved, "that it is desirable to publish for the use of the members of the society, from time to time, as often as materials may accumulate, an octavo sheet of miscellaneous notes relating to the architecture and antiquities of the county." If found practicable, the first number will be published before 1st January, 1853.

**SHAM PATENT AGENTS.**—A "victim" denounces a certain company as sham patent agents; but it is too serious a matter for us to commit ourselves, to the peril of actions for libel on such a ground. We think it advisable, however, to warn those of our readers who are interested in patents, to keep their eyes open to the risk of falling into the hands of unsafe advisers under the guise of respectable patent agents.

**MELTED LEAD.**—A simple method, and one always available, of preventing accidents with melted lead similar to the one which occurred while fixing the casting at the Nelson Column, is in constant use among stone-masons, and deserves to be generally known. A small quantity of common salt placed in the hole before running in the hot metal will prevent the lead flying, however damp the stone may be. Rosin and grease are also frequently so used, and are said to be equally if not more certainly efficient.—G. R.

**A TRIFLING DIFFERENCE.**—Pray give the following list of tenders for painting, &c. the St. Olave's Union Workhouse, Parish-street, Horselydown:—

Sater .....	£225 0 0
Murphy .....	195 0 0
Mallet .....	193 0 0
Brighton .....	180 0 0
Franklin .....	178 0 0
Pallet .....	175 0 0
F. C. Chre .....	147 0 0
Weller .....	147 0 0
Metcalf .....	140 0 0
Main .....	133 0 0
Mann .....	130 0 0
Korn .....	127 0 0
Tyler and Andrews ..	117 10 0
Ambler (accepted) .....	185 0 0

## TENDERS

For making the roads on the Kilburn Park estate: Mr. W. H. Linsley, surveyor:—

Brown .....	£6,286 12 8
Williams .....	6,619 12 8
Barnes and Turner .....	4,986 14 10
Murray .....	4,800 14 8
Osler (accepted) .....	4,644 14 8

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"T. R." "G. W. R." "L. C." "H. R." "J. G. W." "J. F." "G. W." "Lord H." "G. M." "T. J. B." "J. M. W." "T. C. H." (the expression could not be recovered). "S. R." (we are not aware. We doubt the advisability). "An Architect." "P. F." "R. F. P." "W. P." (received). "J. B." "A. W. F." "J. J. R." "Beals and Andrews."—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

**NOTICE.**—All communications respecting advertisements should be addressed to the "Publisher," and not to the "Editor." All other communications should be addressed to the Editor, and not to the Publisher.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**PROFESSOR DONALDSON'S LECTURES** on ANATOMY AND CONSTRUCTION of the Human Body, will be resumed on WEDNESDAY, the 14th OCTOBER, at Half past Six p.m.—Further particulars may be had of the Office of the College.

**GEOLOGICAL MINERALOGY.**—KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—PROFESSOR TERNANT, F.R.S., will commence a COURSE of LECTURES on MINERALOGY, with a view to facilitate the study of Geology, and of the Application of Mineral Substances in the Arts. The Lectures will be illustrated by an extensive collection of specimens, and will comprise the following subjects:—1. MINERALOGY. 2. GEOLOGY. 3. METALLURGY. 4. MINING. 5. THE ARTS. The course will be continued on each succeeding day, from 10 to 12 o'clock. R. W. JELLS, D.D. Principal.

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